



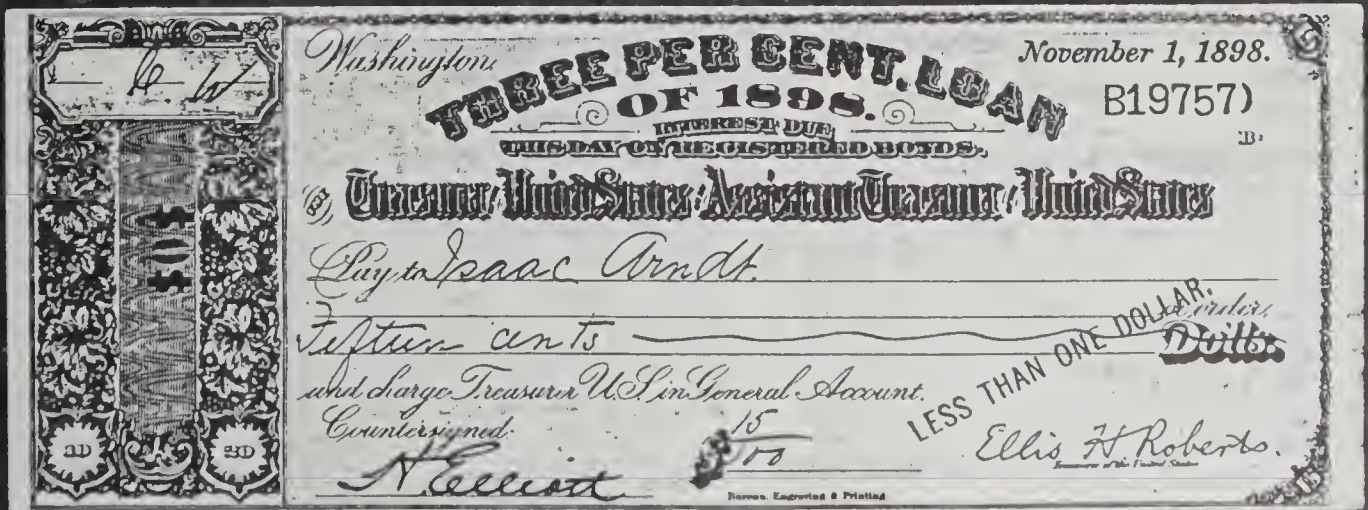
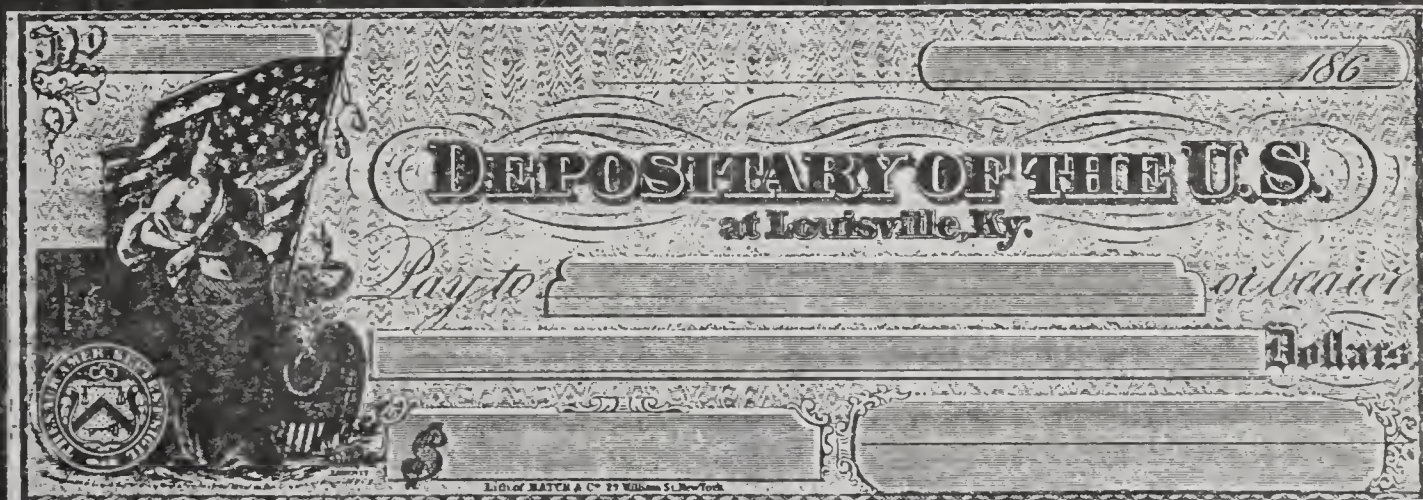
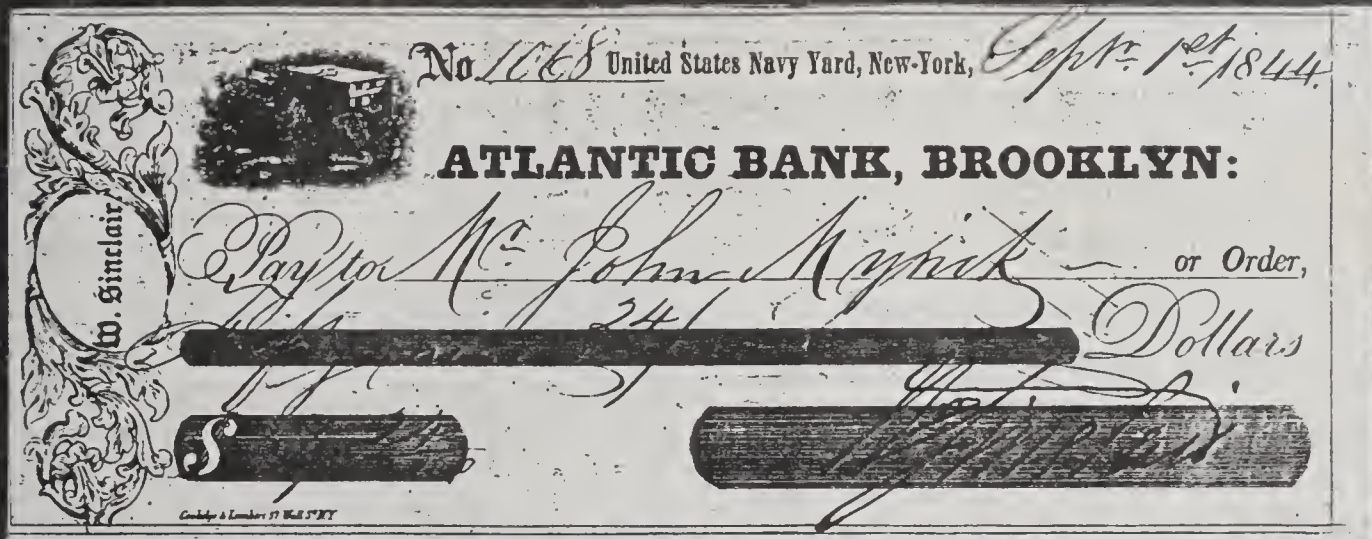
THE CHECK COLLECTOR

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS



THE CHECK COLLECTOR

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Thank you for all the excellent material sent in for The Check Collector.

You will like the report on the Check Pool on this page. Thanks to those who have sent in donations of checks.

ASCC Meetings will be held at some shows and conventions during the coming season. Look for our meetings in the programs.

This is your last notice if you have not sent in your dues for 1989.

THE A.S.C.C. CHECK POOL

By John T. Paslawsky

Checks have been pouring in like a shower since the last report. Paul Brittain and Bob Spence have sent additional packages of about 2000 checks each for our Check Pool. Lee Poleske in Seward, Alaska, sent about 150 Alaska checks, 80 from 22 states and others from the Royal Bank of Canada in Toronto.

Roger Patterson sent about 100 from Bemidji, MI banks and Charley Kemp sent a 5½ pound package of checks, receipts, etc., from Sturgis, Deadwood and Lead in South Dakota.

These latest contributions have increased the Check Pool to over 26,000 checks. Many, many thanks to those who have donated their extra checks to our Check Pool for youngsters.

There have been early requests for check packets from members and especially from youngsters. Hearty congratulations to P. R. Sweeney, Roger Patterson, Gregory Voss and Bob Bartosz for being early customers for check packets from the Check Pool. They intend to distribute these packets to school kids, to young friends, to members of junior coin clubs or help a new member get started in check collecting.

An article about the ASCC Check Pool appeared in the "Autograph Collector's Magazine" and has produced several requests from youngsters for check packets.

These initial responses to the Check Pool are very encouraging; hopefully they are just the tip of the iceberg that may bring many additions to our membership.

Many packets have been distributed at the ANA Mid-Winter Meeting in Colorado and to a local coin shop. It appears that hobby stores, public and school libraries are excellent places for old copies of The Check Collector and packets of checks from the Check Pool.

Although the Check Pool is thriving and abounds with checks from many states, there is a need for checks from certain states. These "endangered" states are; AL, AK, AZ, AR, HI, ID, ME, MD, MI, MS, NV, NH, OR, RI, VT, SC, UT, WA and WI. So please send whatever checks you can spare to keep the Pool adequately diversified.

Thanks again for your support of the ASCC Check Pool and our "checks for youngsters" endeavor.

THE RAMBLING COLLECTOR - I

U. S. GOVERNMENT CHECKS

By Bob Spence

It was a good day for collecting checks. I had just acquired an attractive U.S. Government check and found myself admiring the beautifully engraved montages of flags, arms and military accoutrements that graced each end of the check. It appeared to be of a different design than what I remembered of government checks. The time being available I decided to look at what I had collected in this area over the past twelve years.

The oldest check was found to be dated 1844 and is shown as the top check on the front cover page. It was drawn by a U.S. Navy Purser upon funds deposited in the Atlantic Bank, Brooklyn, NY, and carries the dog, safe and key vignette so popular at that time. On the

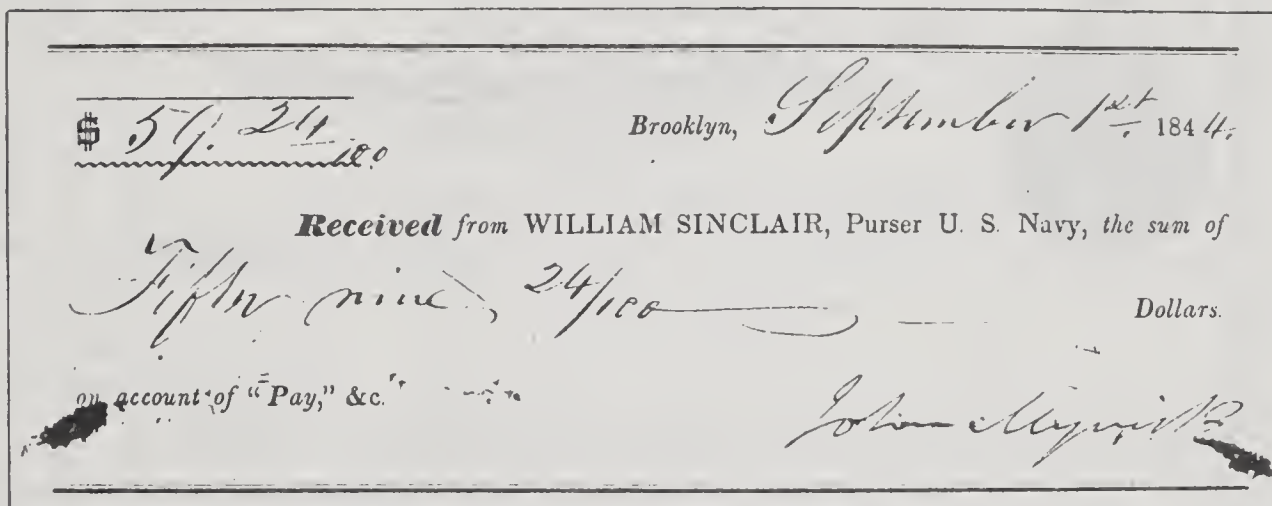


Figure
1

back of the check a receipt for payment form is printed, as shown in Figure 1. Perhaps use of this form was required by Navy regulations (signing the payroll) but if the payee was paid in cash, only the receipt part was needed.

The next oldest check, shown in the middle of the front cover page, was an unused one from the 1860's on the Depository of the U.S.

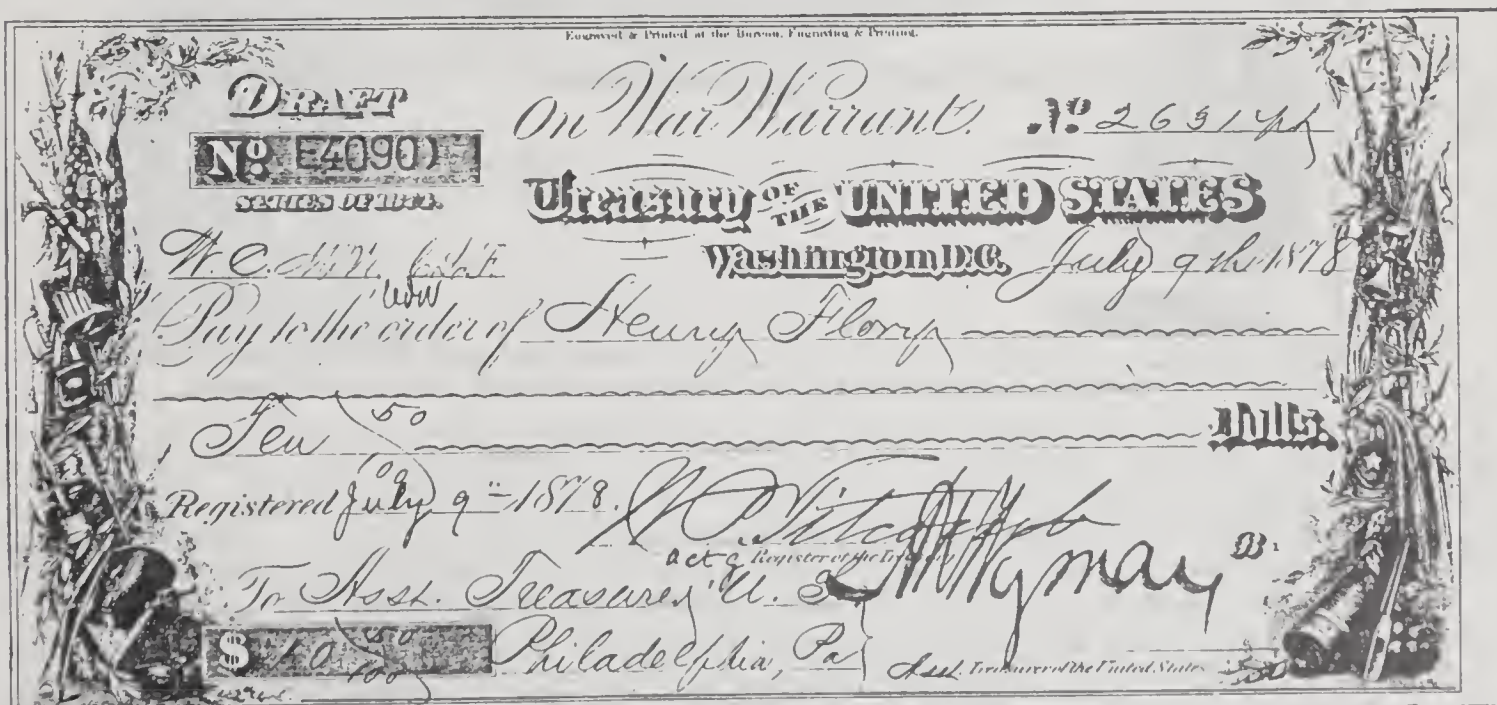


Figure
2

at Louisville, KY. It is a handsome check, lithographed by Hatch & Co. of New York, printed in blue and having a moire silk type pattern background on which an allegorical female figure of Liberty holds a flag and document with an eagle and shield by her side. The Treasury Department seal bears the formerly used Latin legend.

Figure 2 is an 1878 dated unnegotiated draft on the U.S. Treasury in accordance with an 1874 War Warrant. Obviously related to the expenses of the then recent Civil War, this is the check which prompted this "ramble" through the U.S. Government checks in my collection. Very visible on the right half of the back of the check is a 3½ inches wide band of silk threads in the paper for security purposes. The check is engraved in black on a green lightly tinted paper. Note the number of reviewer's initials and signatures. A very carefully drawn document, it was engraved and printed at the B.E.P.

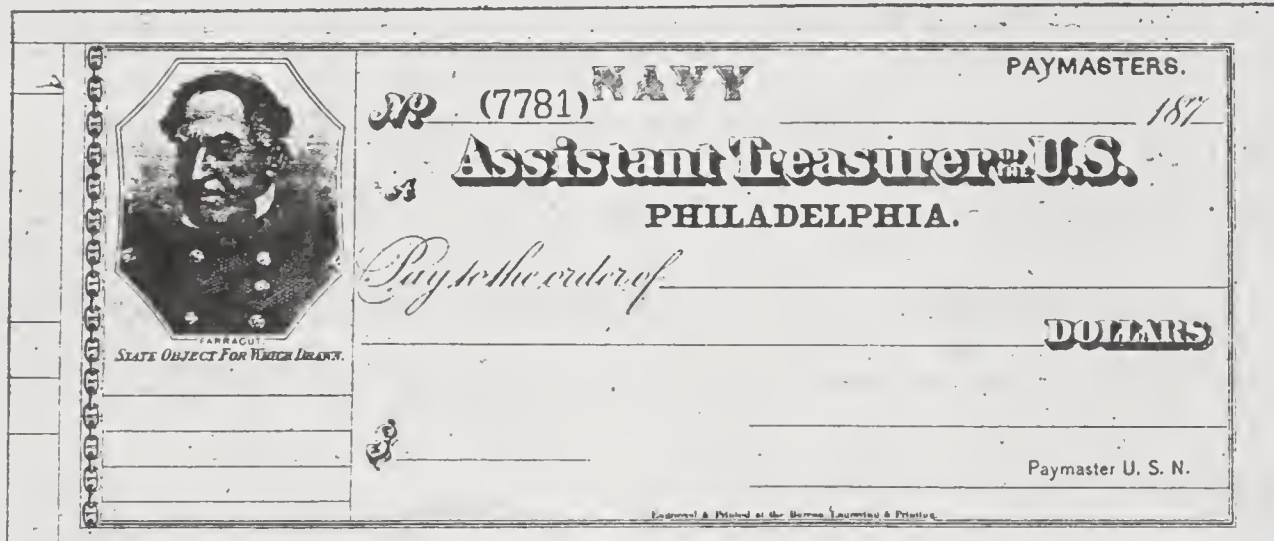


Figure
3

Figure 3 is an unused check of a U.S. Navy Paymaster and dated in the 1870's. The stern visage of Admiral David D. Farragut is the vignette to the right of a length of anchor chain. This check also was printed by the B.E.P.

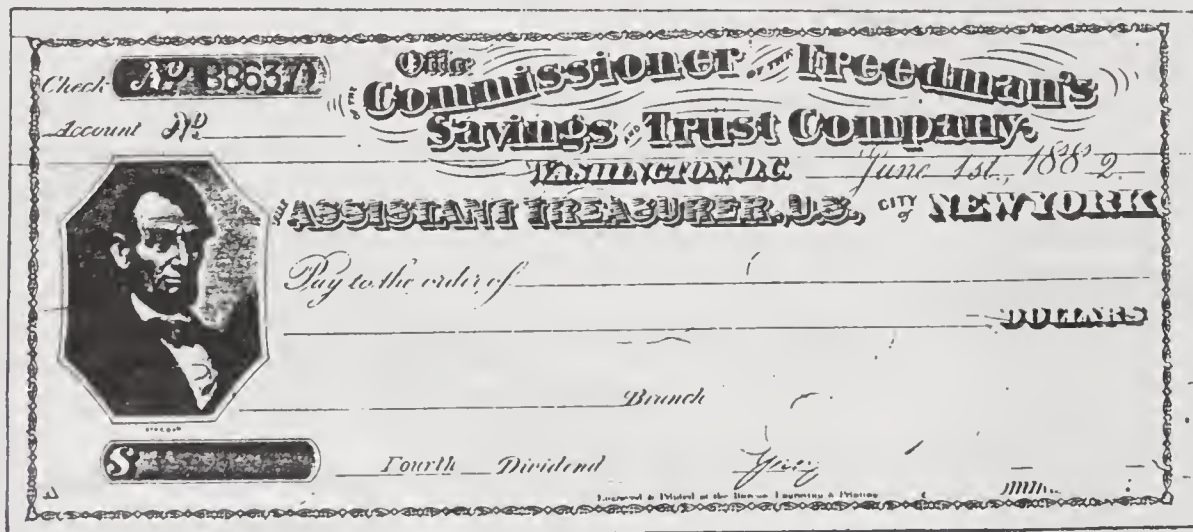



Figure
4

Figure 4 is an unissued check from surplus and intended for the fourth dividend of the Freedman's Savings & Trust Co. and 1882 dated. This organization was formed to provide a safe depository for savings of freed slaves but it came to grief later and was closed. The approving signature had already been affixed to the check with details of the check probably being left to others to complete, and then the check was voided by five oval punches of the signature. The vignette is a familiar portrait of President Lincoln.

Figure 5 is a U.S. Army Paymaster's check with a vignette of Edward M. Stanton at the right. Many of this type of check has been offered for sale to collectors over the years. This particular check

may be of interest to Army veterans because it was made out to and endorsed by 1st Lieutenant H. A. Drum, later a Lieutenant General and Commander of the 2nd Army Corps Area in World War II. Fort Drum in New York is named for him.


PAYMASTERS.		No. 169959
Denver, Colorado, Nov 14 1903 The First National Bank of Denver, Colorado.		
United States Depository Pay to the order of H. A. Drum, 1st Lt. 27 Sep 1903 Eighty-four 100 Dollars		
On account of Meiler 45 Voucher No. <i>[Signature]</i>		
Lt. Col. & D. P. A. G. U. S. A.		

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Figure 5

It was now becoming evident that all checks drawn on the U.S. Treasurer were either unused surplus, obsolete forms or were drawn and apparently not presented for payment. Apparently U.S. Treasury checks when paid are handled like worn-out currency.

The next two checks are examples of those drawn and never presented for payment. The lower check on the front cover page is drawn for the sum of only 15 cents for interest on a Spanish-American War Loan of 1898. It has three recommending initials or signature in addition to the authorizing signature and for security purposes, a maximum sum punched figure and a stamped limit of payment. Engraved and printed by B.E.P. in black with a lightly tinted green underprint on a light cream paper, it is an attractive check.

3% Loan of 1908-1918 Washington, D.C. Feb. 1, 1912.	
The Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer of the United States C178262)	
	Pay to the order of ISAAC ARNDT,
	Fifteen cents
	\$0.15#
	<i>[Signature: F. M. Daines]</i>

[Handwritten signature]

Figure 6

Figure 6 is another unnegotiated check on a loan, but of a different design and dated 1912. The well known portrait vignette of President Lincoln appears at the left of this check which has a countersigned signature. It is engraved by B.E.P. in black on a very lightly tinted underprint on light cream colored paper.

Figures 7 and 8 will bring back memories to World War II veterans. At separation centers, final accounting of pay, benefits and leave were reckoned. Minor adjustments were common, as represented by these checks, Figure 7 by the Army and Figure 8 by the Navy. These checks differ from the earlier ones in this article in that these ones

WAR FINANCE NEW YORK, N.Y. 242,656

2 Treasurer of the United States

THROUGH FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK 1-120 NOV 27 1946

PAY \$ **** DOLLARS 22 CTS

TO THE ORDER OF

VO. NO. 90626 CHARLES DZIENIS \$ **** 22

32464425 1065 MORTON ST

CAMDEN N J

OBJECT FOR WHICH DRAWN: ARMED FORCES LEAVE

DO NOT FOLD, SPINDLE OR MUTILATE

KNOW YOUR ENDORSER - REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION

UNITED STATES ARMY

1 U.S.A. FINANCE OFFICER 255

Figure
7

NAVY BUREAU OF SUPPLIES AND ACCOUNTS GREAT LAKES, ILL. 219,817

7 Treasurer of the United States

THROUGH FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO 2-30 NOV -1 1946

PAY \$ ***** DOLLARS 03 CTS \$ ***** 03 *

TO THE ORDER OF EDGAR R LORAH \$ ***** 3

OBJECT FOR WHICH DRAWN: ARMED FORCES LEAVE

DO NOT FOLD, SPINDLE OR MUTILATE

KNOW YOUR ENDORSER - REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION

W. S. Bacon
2 SUPPLY CORPS, U.S.N.
886

Figure
8

were designed to be processed on IBM punched card accounting machines. The Treasury's Latin legend seal appears on each check. The figures "2" and "7" correspond to the letters "B" and "G" presently used for the Federal Reserve Banks of New York and Chicago.

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55470 Check No. 31,607,863

POSTAL DATA CENTER

SYMBOL 6017

31607863
08-05-83

United States Treasury 15-51 000

PAY \$ ***** DOLLARS 19 CENTS

TO THL 566-84-1609

ORDER OF S J SIMON
513 SIXTH AVENUE
LAKE WORTH FL 33460

\$ ***** 19

DO NOT FOLD, SPINDLE OR MUTILATE
KNOW YOUR ENDORSER - REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY 1789

DISBURSING OFFICER L. L. Began

106017010 000000518 3160786310

Figure
9

Figure 9 shows an 1983 dated check on the U.S. Treasury bearing the new seal of the U.S. Treasury, bank routing codes and magnetic ink characters at the bottom. It was still issued for processing on IBM punched card machines. Apparently it is a check showing the transition in technology for automated accounting.

Figure 10 shows an unused check used by members of Congress and drawn on the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives. Figure 11 is that of a later type bearing a center vignette of the U.S. Capitol.

Washington, D.C., _____, 19____ No. 59

The Sergeant at Arms
House of Representatives U.S.

Pay to the order of _____ \$ _____

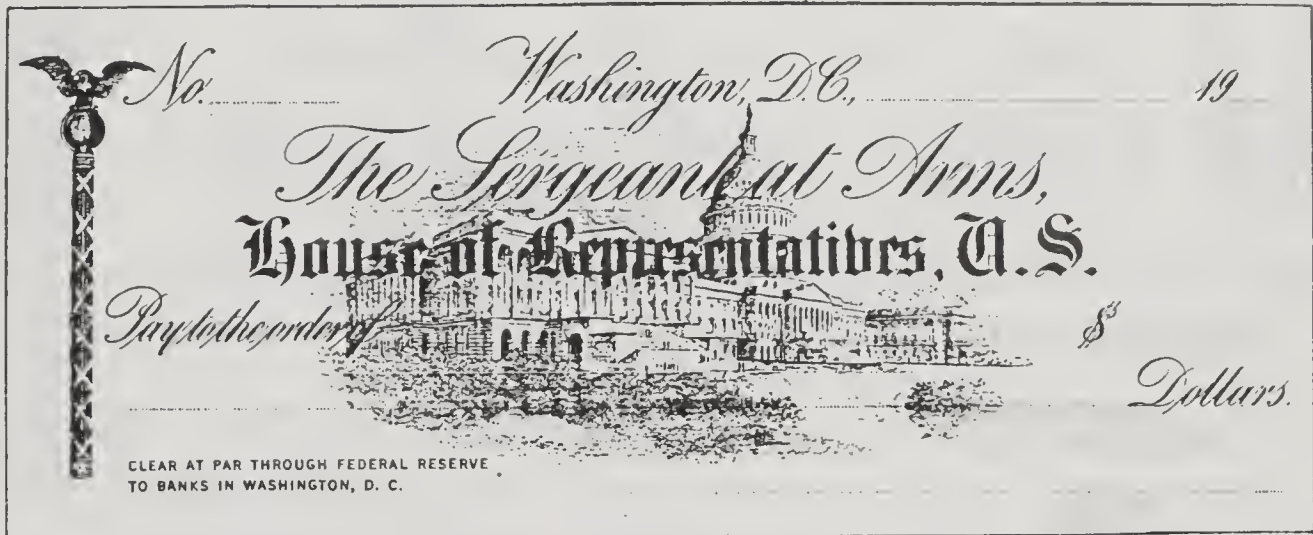
Dollars

CLEAR AT PAR THROUGH FEDERAL RESERVE
TO BANKS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

GPO 16-989-1

Figure
10

Figure
11



And what is this check shown in Figure 12? It is just another governmental unit drawing on governmental funds deposited in a state chartered bank, just like the top check shown on the front cover page. Shades of Andrew Jackson!!

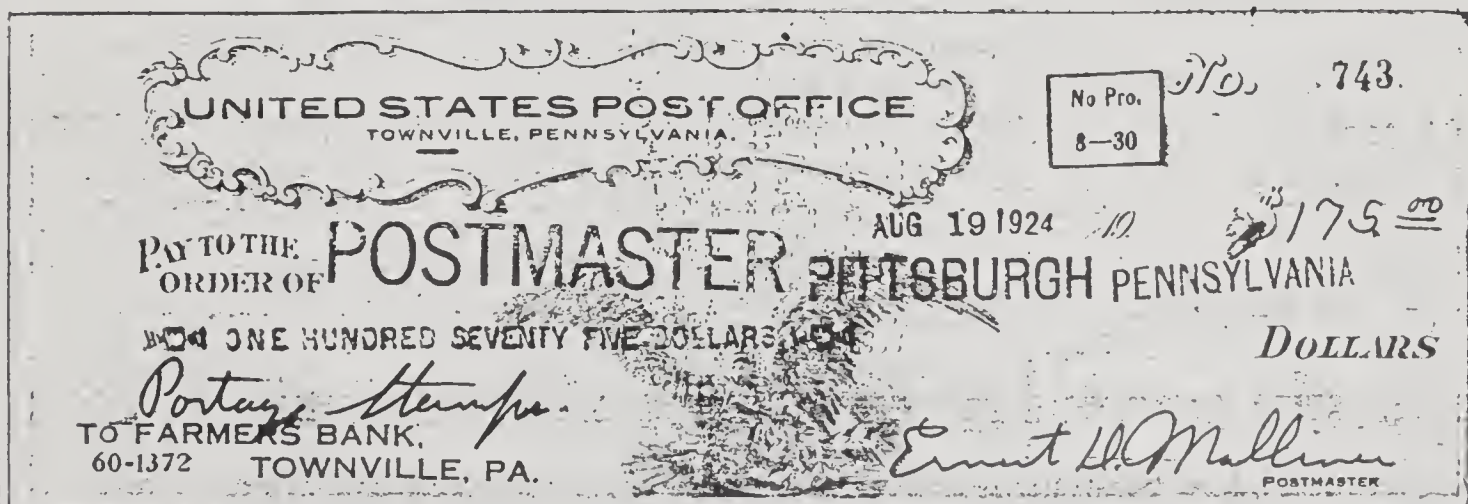
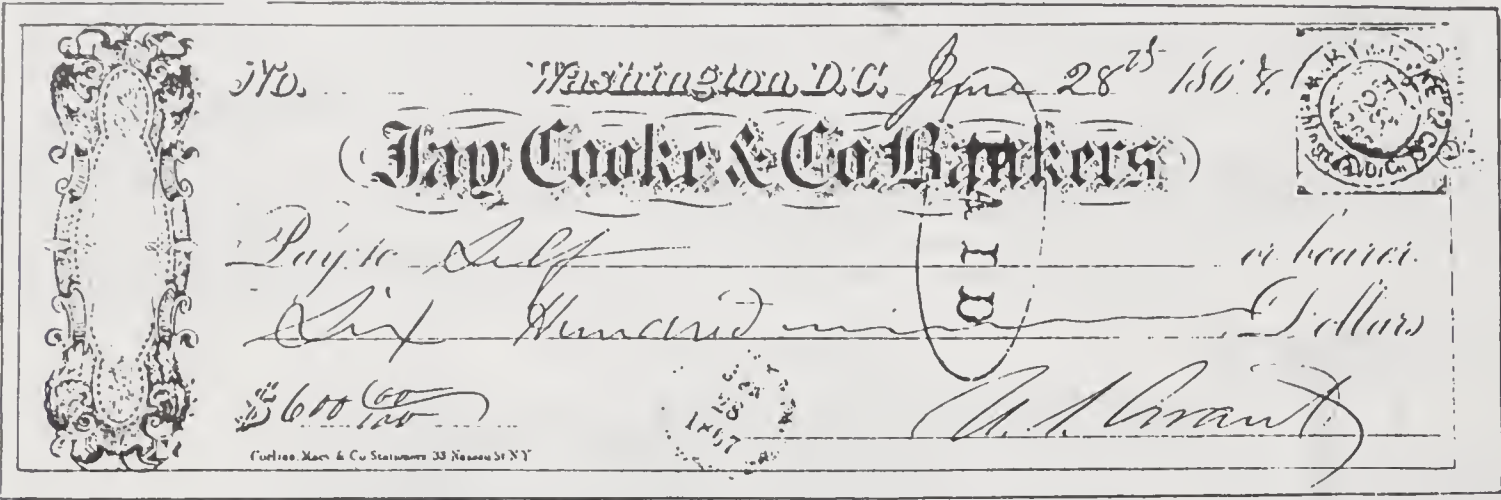


Figure
12

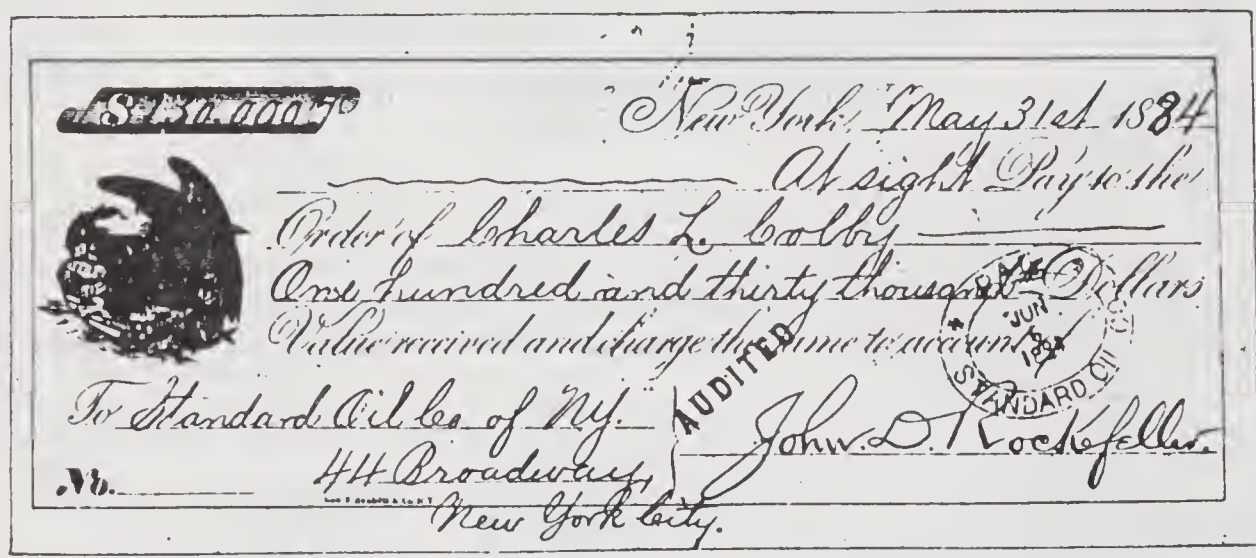
It was pleasant to ramble through these U.S. Government checks, but it took more time, and deservedly so, than I had anticipated. It is noted that these checks did not contain ones with very early dates which seem to be more available on checks of state chartered banks. Also noted is that the U.S. Government, the creator and supplier of adhesive and imprinted revenue stamps, did not have to use a single stamp on these checks. From the above quantity of checks, one for each year of collecting, I consider them to be scarce, beautiful, historical and carriers of memories.

AUTOGRAPHS ON CHECKS

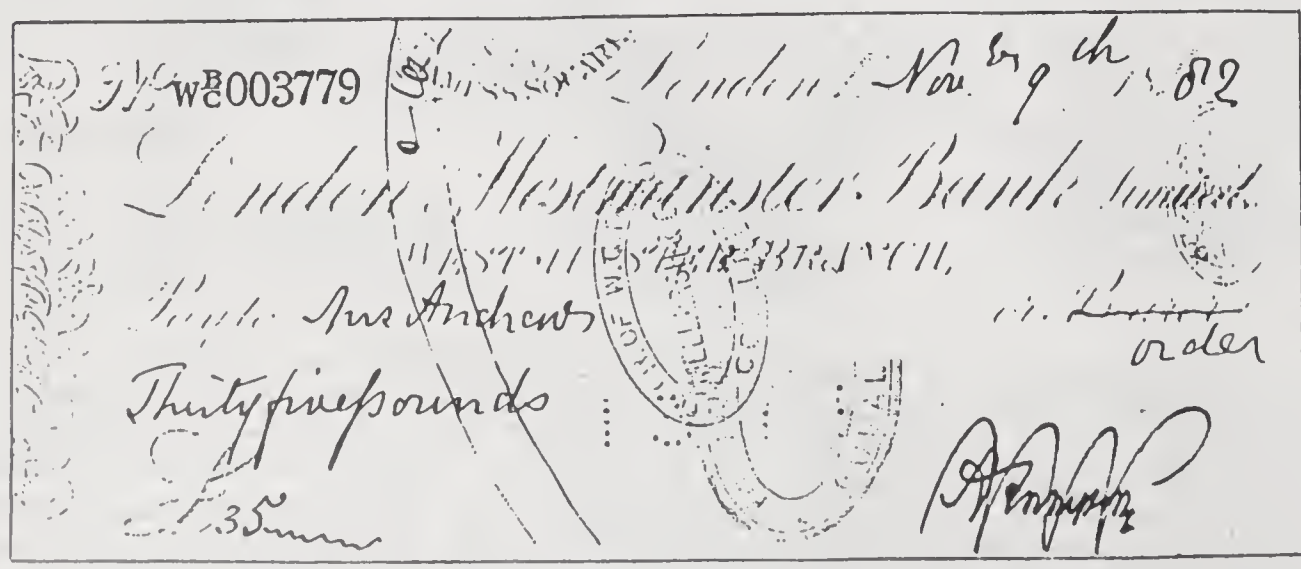
Autographs on checks is a very popular check collecting area among our readers and it is nice that new acquisitions are shared. Here are some very interesting checks with autographs.



Sandy Mock sends in this one of President U. S. Grant.



Sandy Mock also sent in this draft signed by John D. Rockefeller.



And the last cheque from Sandy is this interesting one of Alfred Lord Tennyson, the English Poet Laureate. Note the curved "crossed" markings and the English imprint duty stamp at the upper right corner.

SOME RN FACSIMILIES ON CHECKS - I

By Ed Lipson

As you no doubt know, the Act of Congress of July 1, 1862, imposed a tax of two cents on a bank check. And this tax of two cents per bank check remained in force until July 1, 1882. The public having been accustomed to seeing a revenue stamp imprinted on the check, or in place thereof an adhesive stamp, naturally would have been shocked upon receiving a check on which the tax had apparently not been paid. Hence, it is my assumption that these facsimiles came into being. They also served to give the maker of the check or draft a chance to do a bit of advertising on his own behalf.

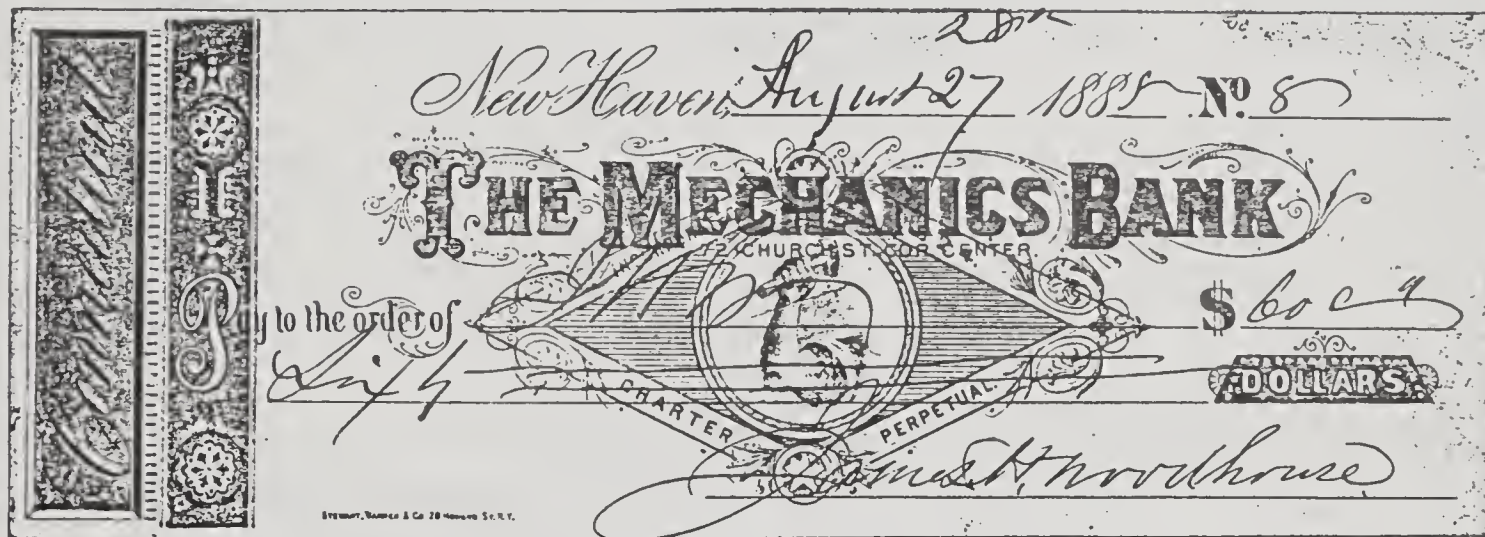


Fig. 1

The check in Figure 1 has a facsimile on it resembling the Type G overprint. This facsimile is what I would call a custom facsimile, in that it contains matter relating only to Mechanics Bank of New Haven. It indicated it had a perpetual charter and also gave the date of incorporation. Strangely enough, when I was a kid, our family had a bank account at the Mechanics Bank at New Haven. This bank went out of business in the 1930's during the Depression. This check, printed in blue on a cream colored paper, with a very, very, pale orange colored facsimile is, in my opinion, a thing of rare beauty.

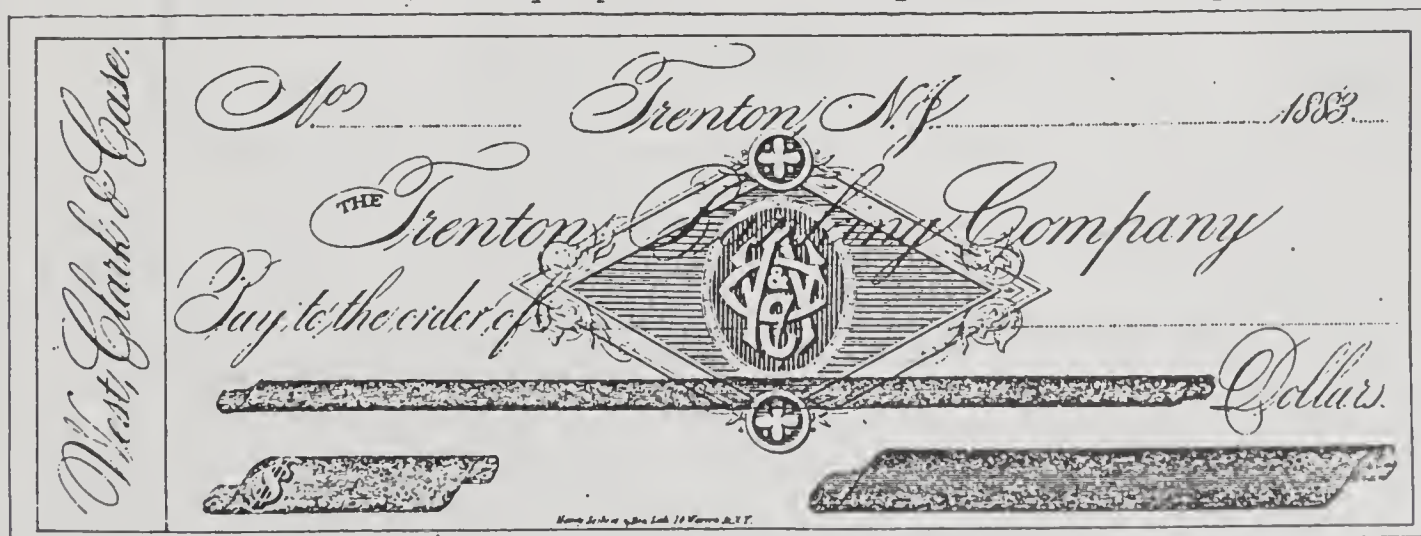


Fig. 2

The check shown in Figure 2 is another custom facsimile. The facsimile again is the Type G of the normal RN's and it is centered with the monogram or initial of the maker of the check. The facsimile is in pale orange, the face of the check is printed in brown on pale beige paper and it is a lovely piece. This check was printed by Henry Siebert in New York City. In addition, for the record, the first

check I described, which was the one relative to the Mechanics Bank, was printed by Stewart, Warren & Co. At a previous date, they were Stewart, Haring & Warren.



Fig.
3

Figure 3 is a facsimile check printed by A. Gast & Co. of St. Louis on a bank in Keokuk, Iowa. Again, a reproduction of the RN-Type G imprint. The state name Iowa appears in the RN facsimile along with what I believe is an example of the state seal. This RN is very interesting, particularly since I have a penchant for Indians.

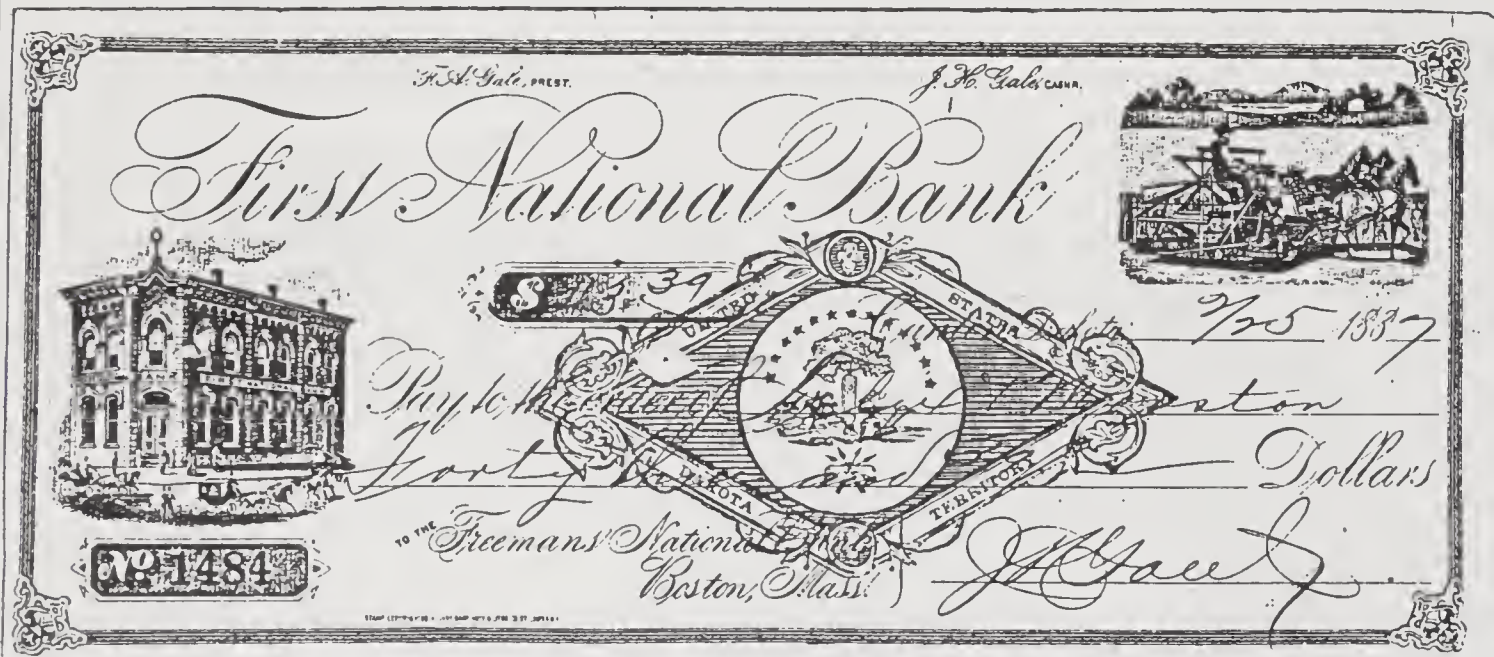
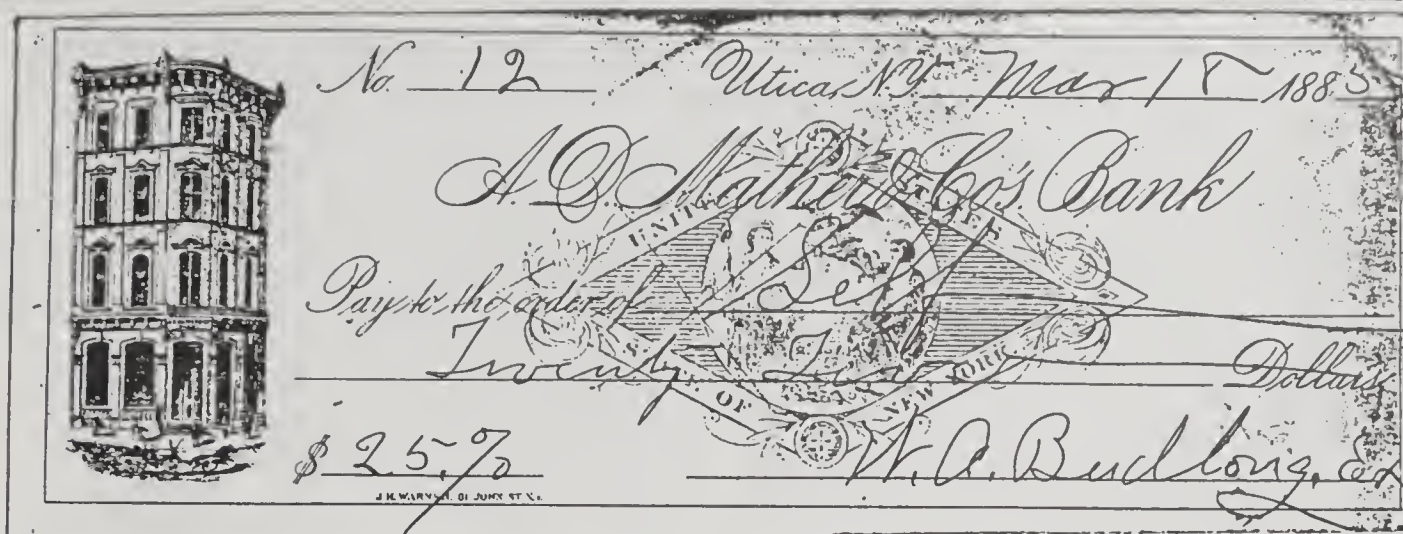


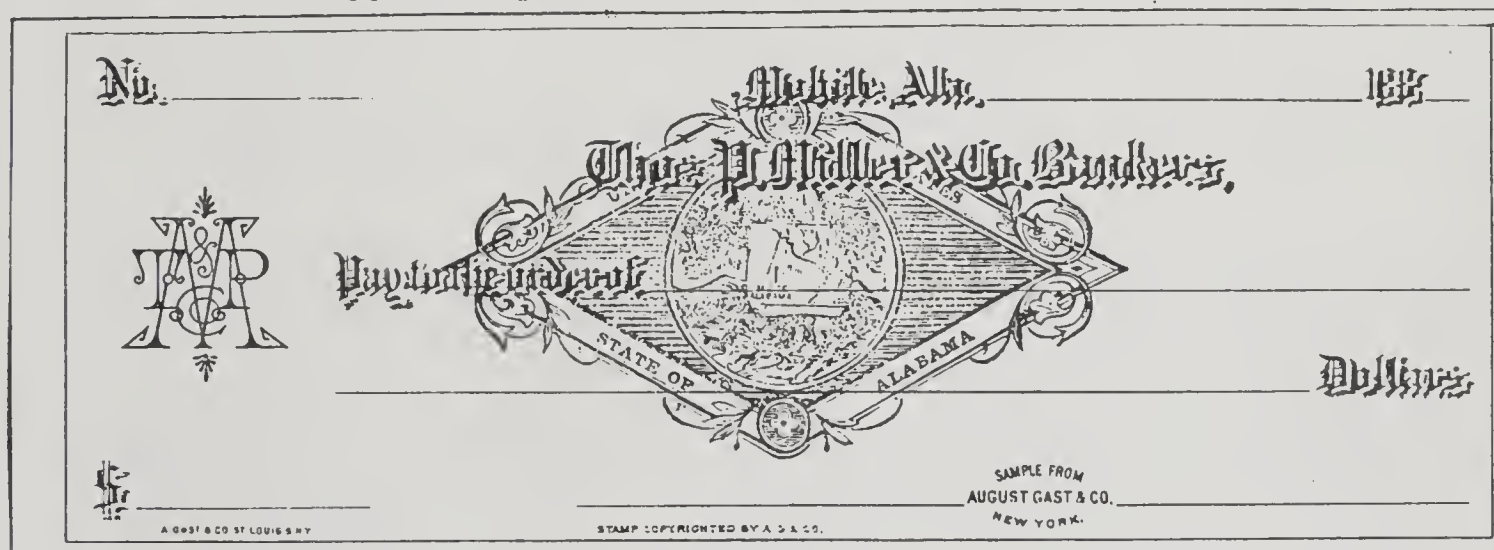
Fig.
4

The next check, Figure 4, is drawn on the First National Bank of Canton, Dakota. Note that this is not North Dakota nor South Dakota, but it was Dakota when it was a Territory, prior to becoming two states. The RN facsimile on the Dakota check is very, very similar to the one on the Iowa check, excepting that the words "Dakota Territory" appears in the facsimile as opposed to the phrase "State of Iowa" occurring on the Iowa check. Certainly I enjoy finding facsimiles where there is a vignette or two on it. This check is not extremely rare, however. I find it quite interesting that it not only shows the bank building, but it also shows a scene of a farmer working in the fields and I think it is quite appropriate for Dakota.

The next check shown in Figure 5, is apparently on a private bank in Utica, New York. The facsimile thereon is similar to that which appeared on the Dakota check and on the Iowa check, except that in this case it is marked "State of New York". This is also interesting to me because the bank building appears as a vignette on the left hand

Fig.
5

side of the check. I do not know if you can read it clearly, but the name "A. D. Mather" appears on the sign above the door. Rather interesting the number of bank checks I have seen with the bank illustrated thereon, where the doors seem to open up on what would be the corner of a block. Apparently, banks liked to be on the corner.

Fig.
6

The next item which is shown in Figure 6 is interesting because it is not only a facsimile but it is also a sample. It is clearly marked "Sample from August Gast Co., New York". At the left hand side of the check there is a small imprint reading "A. Gast & Co., St. Louis & NY." and in the lower middle of the check is another imprint reading "Stamp copyrighted by A. G. & Co." Anyway, I think that this sample or specimen on Mobile, Alabama, with the RN facsimile being marked "State of Alabama" is certainly an interesting one. You just don't get to see too many things from Alabama. Also, I think the little design at the left hand side of the check reflecting the initials of the bank is rather attractive.

The next item is the check shown in Figure 7-A. The RN facsimile on this check is again similar to the Type G RN's, however, it is not at all as fancy, shall we say, as that used on the previous checks that were produced by Gast. This particular check was printed by Milton C. Johnson in New York City and if you can read the imprint with any clarity, you will realize that the trademark of the design was registered in Congress in the year 1883. What makes this check interesting is that this check was apparently part of a sample offering of checks, because while the front thereof is quite noticeable, you also have a reproduction of what appears on the back, shown in Figure 7-B, namely a special offer of price on these lithographed checks on what is call-

Fig.
7-A

THIS SPECIAL OFFER IS ONLY HELD OPEN UNTIL JANUARY 1ST, 1884.

CLASS, A. 14,000 LOOSE LITHOGRAPH CHECKS ON REVENUE TINT, \$2.00 PER 1,000

CLASS, B. 28,000 DO DO DO DO 1.70 PER 1,000

In order to have this Revenue Tint Paper generally introduced we make the above offer, but will not accept orders at these prices after January 1st, 1884, and will not guarantee to deliver any order on this Special offer in less than 30 days from date.

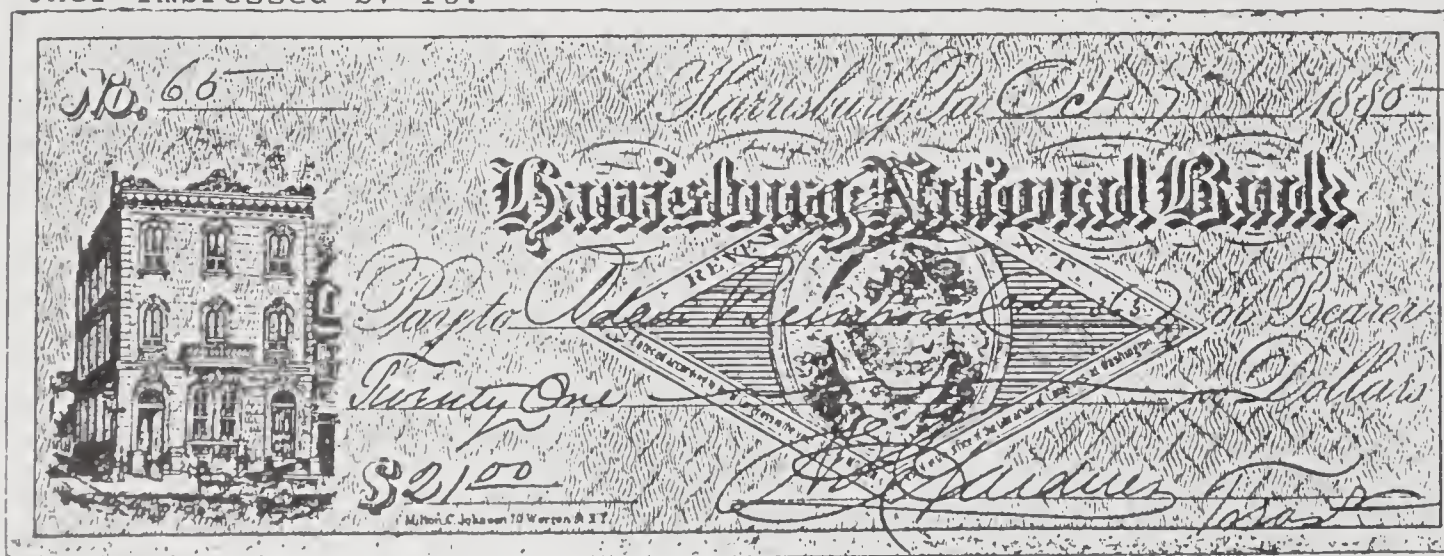
MILTON C. JOHNSON,

Steam Lithographer,

New York.

Fig.
7-B

ed the "Revenue Tint" by Milton C. Johnson, Steam Lithographer, New York City. I should like to point out to you that there is a slight defect in this check in the area of the stag that runs into the design on the left hand side and there also is a defect on the back, above the name Milton C. Johnson. However, it is the only facsimile that I have ever seen with advertising on the back and accordingly, I am rather impressed by it.

Fig.
8

The next check with a similar facsimile, shown in Figure 8, is also printed by Milton C. Johnson and is on a bank in Harrisburg, PA. Again, the design of the bank building appearing as a vignette on the left hand side of the check, I believe, is quite lovely and for that reason I am quite happy to select it as one of the checks in the series we are now attempting.



Figure 9

The next check, Figure 9, is again a facsimile by Milton C. Johnson. This check is rather interesting in that it is on a bank located in Nevada City, California. The check appears to have no date indicating when it was used, but there is a handstamp in purple on the check "Paid, May 9, 1891". Having been used in Nevada City, CA, I think it is rather interesting. I am not particularly wild about Western checks, but I certainly think there are many people who feel they are truly something and anyway, I think they would find this a very beautiful item.



Figure 10

The next check I will discuss is shown in Figure 10. It is on the Blackstone National Bank of Boston and of the year 1888. There is an RN facsimile on this check that differs from those we have seen thus far. The upper inscription in the RN facsimile reads "United States" and the lower inscription reads "Safety Tint". The initials of the Blackstone National Bank seem to appear in the middle of the vignette in the facsimile. This vignette is printed in a pale orange-red color, one that I would call Chinese red, a color we see very frequently in the Gerbara daisies that grow in the Transvaal in Africa. A really delicate and unusual color. And this revenue facsimile is printed on a check that has a pale, brown beige background, but the area inside the RN facsimile is completely white, so that the RN facsimile truly stands out. I think that this is a very, very beautiful RN facsimile and I am very happy to have it in my collection.

MORE ON FLORIDA CHECKS

By Michael Mahler

In the November 1987 issue of The Check Collector, there was a survey of Florida checks. Here are three more to add to the lot, all bearing Spanish-American adhesive revenue stamps.

No. 7289

STATEMENT

DEBIT	
9 41 91	
TOTAL	
CREDIT	
9	
TOTAL	

NO PROTEST

Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway,
Joseph N. Durkee, Receiver.
Auditor's Office
Jacksonville, Fla.

AT SIGHT PAY TO THE ORDER OF W. D. BARNETT, CASHIER.

Forty and 1/10 Dollars.

Value received for...
To W. H. Chamberlain and
The East Coast Ry.
St. Augustine Fla.

And charge to account of the Company.

General Auditor

The earliest, dated November, 1898, is an internal draft of the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway, which evidently was in receivership, for beneath its name is printed "Joseph N. Durkee, Receiver". Note the debit and credit columns at the left, seldom seen on a check.

Winter Park Fla Jan 4 1899.

At sight Pay to

the order of A. A. Marsh

Two dollars and fifty cents DOLLARS

Value received and charge the same to account of

W. R. O'Real Treas.

No. 7 Orlando Fla. Alice M. Merritt

Next is a generic but nicely vignetted draft dated January, 1899, with the Winter Park dateline, payable in Orlando.

No. 5152 JACKSONVILLE, FLA. May 20 1901

NATIONAL BANK OF JACKSONVILLE

Pay to the order of Amy Buchanan

Five Dollars

August Buesing

AGUST BUESING.
DEALER IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE.
EXPERT OF SURVEYING & DEEDS.
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Finally, a May 1901 check of merchant August Buesing of Jacksonville, with a fine vignette of him produced by Corlies, Macy & Co. of New York, proclaiming him an "Expert of Surveying & Deeds". This check is No. 5152. Where are the rest?

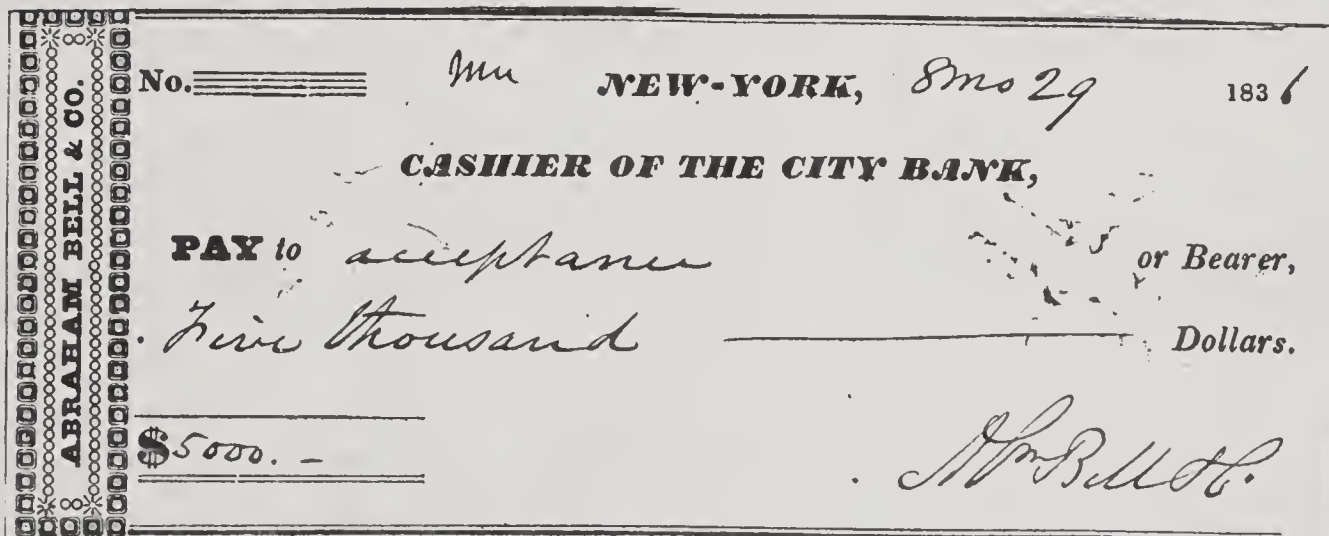
LOOKING FOR A COLLECTION THEME? TRY BANK ROBBERIES!

By Lee Poleske

If you are looking for a check collection theme, perhaps you should consider bank robberies. Many interesting collections could be built around this theme. Some collectors might be satisfied to have a check from each bank that has played a significant part in the histories of bank robberies in the United States. Others might like a check from every bank robbed by John Dillinger or Jesse James; an even greater challenge would be to collect such checks dated on the day the bank was robbed.

The purpose of this article is not to give a detailed history of bank robberies in the United States, but to provide a few highlights with the hope of inspiring further research and the start of some collections built around this theme. When you finish reading this article, I hope you will head for your local library to find out more about someone or something mentioned in it.

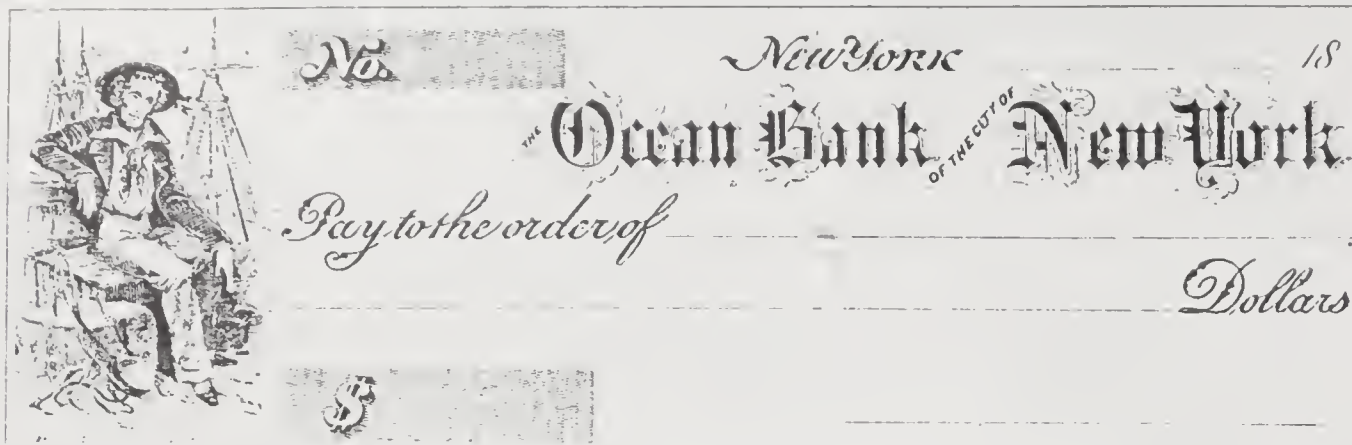
A good place to start would be the City Bank of New York. This was the site of the first bank robbery in the United States.



An Englishman by the name of Edward Smith used duplicate keys to enter the bank on March 19, 1831, and steal \$245,000. How he obtained the duplicate keys was never discovered. After the robbery, he set a pattern followed by many bank robbers -- he started spending money freely and was soon apprehended. \$185,000 of the loot was recovered. Smith was sentenced to five years at hard labor in Sing Sing.

Readers who are up on their legal vocabulary are no doubt saying, "That wasn't a robbery, that was a burglary." They are, of course, correct. A robbery is a larceny from a person or in the presence of persons by violence or threat of violence. A burglary is breaking into a building with the intent to steal. In both cases though, the end result is the same, the money is gone and a crime has been committed. For the purposes of this article the distinction between the two crimes will be ignored.

The "Golden Age of Bank Robberies" was after the Civil War. Daylight robberies were the fashion west of the Mississippi River. The wave of bank robberies was started by the Reno gang, their example was soon followed by the Jesse James gang, the Youngers, the Daltons and many less well known gangs. In the east, on the other hand, nighttime safecrackings were more common. The most successful robberies were done by the Bliss bank ring, run by George Miles Bliss and Mark Shimburn and George L. Leslie's gang.



In 1869 the Bliss ring robbed the Ocean Bank of New York of \$2.75 million. Leslie's biggest job was \$2,747,000 from the Manhattan Savings Institution of New York. Not only is his gang credited with between \$7 and \$12 million in stolen money, but he was hired as a consultant by bank robbers around the country at fees ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The key to the success of both of these gangs was bribes they paid to city police officials to leave them alone. For example, on the Ocean Bank job, Bliss paid out \$132,000 in bribes to various policemen. The fall of Boss Tweed in 1873 and the appointment of Thomas F. Byrnes as head of the Detective Bureau in 1880 brought an end to the cooperation between the police and the bank robbers. Bliss was captured and sentenced to prison for the robbery of a Vermont bank. Shinburn retired on his real estate investments under an assumed name and Leslie who never spent a day in jail, but a lot of nights with other men's wives, was shot by a jealous husband.

Things were also changing in the west. Citizens who once fled in fear were now standing up and fighting. Two robberies mark the end of the "Golden Age" in the west. On September 7, 1876, Jesse and Frank James, Coel, Jim and Bob Younger, Charlie Pitts, Clell Miller and Bill Chadwell rode into Northfield, Minnesota, to rob the First National Bank. A shot fired at a clerk who escaped out the back door alerted the citizens and the gang had to fight its way out of town. Poses were formed in all of the surrounding towns. The James brothers split off from the others and were able to escape. The Youngers were captured and the other three members of the gang were killed. The James brothers formed a new gang, but most of their time was spent in trying to avoid capture.

COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS, _____ 19____ No. _____

THE CONDON NATIONAL BANK ⁸³⁻³¹/₁₀₁₁

PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____ \$ _____

_____ DOLLARS

ACCOUNT NO →

□ □ ■ □ □ □ ■ □ ■

⑆1011⑆0031⑆

The other robbery took place in Coffeyville, Kansas. On October 5, 1892, the Dalton gang robbed both the Condon and the First National Bank of Coffeyville. A local citizen, Alex McKenna, recognized a cou-

ple of the Daltons as they entered one of the banks and spread the alarm. Half the town was waiting for them when they left the banks.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

No. _____


 83-30
1011

Coffeyville, Kans. _____ 19 _____

Pay to the
order of _____

\$ _____

Dollars

for _____

⑆ 1011 0030 ⑆

Gratton and Robert Dalton along with Dick Broadwell and Bill Powers were killed. Only Emmet Dalton survived the shootout. He was sent to prison. Pardoned in 1907, he went to California and became a successful building contractor.

If the 1860's and 70's were the "Golden Age", the 1930's would have to be called the "Silver Age". Banks were not popular during the Depression and bank robbers like John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd and Bonnie and Clyde became popular folk heroes. Although bank robbers were often portrayed as Robin Hoods, it should be remembered that both Dillinger and Jesse James and all their contemporaries were not only willing and capable of gunning down anyone who stood in their way, but did so on many occasions. The 1930's was also the time when there were serious efforts made to turn bank robberies from an art into a science.

But before getting to that subject, a most "un-scientific" bank robber should be mentioned. Between 1915 and 1924, John Ashley and his gang robbed a total of 40 banks in Florida and stole around a million dollars. After a job, they headed for the Everglades, where



TOWN OF BOYNTON

GENERAL FUND

No. _____

BOYNTON, FLA. _____ 192 _____

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF _____

\$ _____

DOLLARS

 TO BANK OF BOYNTON
63-303 BOYNTON, FLA. 63-303

TOWN OF BOYNTON

By _____

CLERK—TREASURER

trackers soon found themselves being tracked. Ashley was a haphazard planner. When his gang robbed the bank at Stuart, Florida, they did not bring a getaway car, since none of them knew how to drive. Ashley figured there would be somebody in the bank who had a car they could use, which turned out to be true. Ashley's career ended when a stool-pigeon in the gang led him into a police ambush. The official version

BANK OF BOYNTON

BOYNTON, FLA.

ESTABLISHED 1915



One of the Florida banks "visited" by the Ashley gang. The cashier and a teller were locked in the bank vault by the robbers but managed to get out.

is that Ashley was shot when he went for his gun, others claimed he surrendered, was handcuffed and then shot to death.

Herman K. Lamm was anything but haphazard. He is the man who planned a military career, but shortly before World War I he was forced out of his regiment for cheating at cards. He came to the United States and put his military training to work robbing banks. He planned a bank robbery like a military campaign. He secured detailed floor plans of the bank, held rehearsals, set up a time schedule, planned every detail and tried to foresee every contingency. Although he carried out several successful robberies and his methods were widely copied, his last job proved the often quoted lines of Robert Burns, "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men/Gang aft agley". On December 16, 1930, during the robbery of the Citizens State Bank of Clinton, Indiana, the driver of Lamm's getaway car panicked when he saw a citizen approaching the bank with a shotgun. He made a U-turn, jumped a curb and blew a tire. The gang jumped out of the car and seized another, but it had a secret governor installed by its owner to prevent his elderly father from driving too fast. They switched to a truck, but it had only a little water in the radiator. They commandeered another car, but it had only a gallon of gas. Cornered, Lamm and his driver were killed in a gun battle with 200 police officers and vigilantes. Another member of the gang, 71 year old Dad Landy, killed himself rather than go to prison. Two other members of the gang were captured and sent to prison. They were allowed to join the Dillinger gang and escaped with them on the condition they would teach the gang the details of Lamm's methods.

Although John Dillinger is the best known of the Depression era bank robbers, his career was short, from June 10, 1933, when he robbed the National Bank of New Carlisle, Indiana, to his last job on June



Greencastle, Ind. Aug. 13, 1935



Pay to Henry Chair

or Order

50 Dollars \$1950

N^o

C. H. Wilkinson

30, 1934, the Merchants National Bank of South Bend, Indiana. There is no agreement on how many banks he and his gang robbed. The estimates range from 10 to 20. Also, many unsolved bank robberies were credited to him. There is general agreement that he committed at least ten robberies: the National Bank of New Carlisle, New Carlisle, IN (June 10, 1933), Commercial Bank of Daleville, Daleville, IN (July 17, 1933), First National Bank, Montpelier, IN (August 4, 1933), Massachusetts Avenue State Bank, Indianapolis, IN (September 6, 1933), Central National Bank, Greencastle, IN (October 23, 1933), American Bank and Trust Co, Racine, WI (November 20, 1933), First National Bank, East Chicago, IN (January 15, 1934), Security National Bank, Sioux Falls, SD (March 6, 1934), First National Bank, Mason City, IA (March 13, 1934), Merchants National Bank, South Bend, IN (June 30, 1934). None of the robberies were spectacular, the largest was \$75,346 from the Central National Bank, the smallest \$3,500 from the Commercial Bank of Daleville.

After the 1930's, one name comes to mind when bank robberies are mentioned, Willie Sutton. When asked why he robbed banks, he was reported to have said, "That's where the money is." Between 1926 and 1969, his robberies netted him some \$2 million, but he also spent 33 of those 43 years in prison. After his final release he became a consultant to banks on security matters. He even did a commercial for New Britain Bank & Trust Co. of Connecticut to promote its new Photo credit card.

Today the professionals have dropped out of the field leaving it to amateurs. Anti-robbery devices and other security measures limit the average take to \$1,500. The typical bank robber, according to the FBI, is an unemployed man in his early 20's, often in need of money for debts or drugs.

An FBI agent has observed, "Twenty years ago the bank robber was looked up to by other inmates in prison. He was a big shot, and bank robbery was viewed as the class robbery. Not any more." Today embezzlers steal three to five times as much as bank robbers. The computer has replaced the six-shooter.

ACROSS OUR DESK

Price lists, catalogs, journals, etc., received since the last issue.
(Items with an * may require subscription. Write if interested).

Announcement of price lists currently available from Yesterday's Paper, P. O. Box 819, Concrete, WA 98237.

Price list of checks, notes and related material from M. S. Kazanjian, 25 King Philip Ave., Barrington, RI 02808.

*Catalog of Public Auction No. 86 from H.J.W. Daugherty, P. O. Box 1146, Eastham, MA 02642. Covers checks, revenue stamps and related materials.

*Catalog of checks, drafts, books, check sleeves, etc., from Oregon Paper Money Exchange, 6802 SW 33rd Pl., Portland, OR 97219.

Summer of 1989 Catalog of paper money and other items, including checks, from Edgewood Coin Co., 936 S. Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205.

Regular price list of US and world checks and related items from Lee Poleske, P. O. Box 871, Seward, AK 99664. Bank and Check News letter sent with list contains interesting news items of the banking and financial world.

Mail bid sale catalog of checks and related items from Columbus Industries, Inc., 320 S. Wells Ave., Reno, NV 89502.

Catalog 72 of Robert F. Batchelder, 1 West Butler Ave., Ambler, PA 19002
Contains autographed letters, documents and some checks.

CHECK COLLECTORS CLEARING HOUSE

A column of questions and answers from our readers.

Waycross Coca Cola Bottling Co.

Waycross, Ga. July 6 1907 No. 2251

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WAYCROSS.

Pay to the order of The Waycross Coca Cola Bottling Co. No. 1174

Forty Six 50 100 Dollars

TO THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK }
WAYCROSS, GA. }

THE WAYCROSS COCA COLA BOTTLING CO.

#21 - Bill Johnson asks: Does anyone have an earlier Coca Cola check than July 6, 1907? Or an earlier check than November 30, 1908 which bears the script trade mark of Coca Cola?

Clearing House No. 15.

AUG 8 - 1898 189 No. 51

Wells Fargo & Co. Bank

Pay to the order of C. D. Smith \$ 46 30

Forty Six 30 100 Dollars

C. D. Smith

#22 - Bob Patetta sends in this Wells Fargo check. The Spanish-American War tax on checks became effective July 1, 1898 and this check is dated August 8, 1898. Although the tax was paid by the imprinted revenue stamp, somebody unfamiliar with this practice added an adhesive revenue stamp to the check. This is the earliest use of the RN-X7 imprint design that I have seen. Does anybody know of an earlier example?

NO PROTEST

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at the Office of Production Credit Association

of La Junta, Colorado

Payable Through Colorado Savings & Trust Co. Bank

of La Junta, Colorado

The drawee association is authorized to inspect the contents of this envelope before paying the draft.

C. E. Allen

PRINT NAME

C. E. Allen

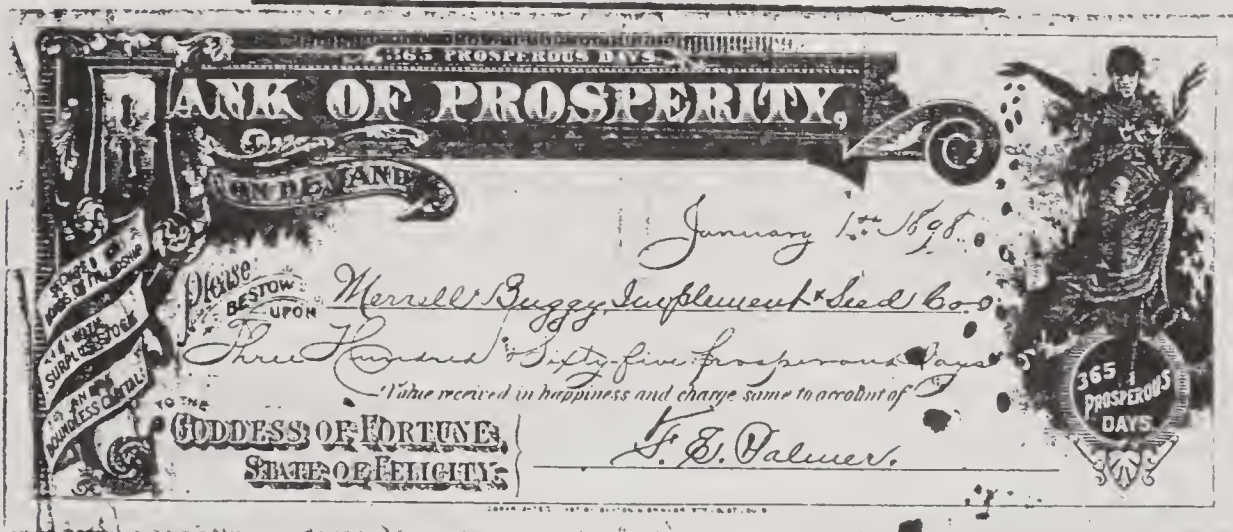
SIGNATURE

FOR COLLECTION

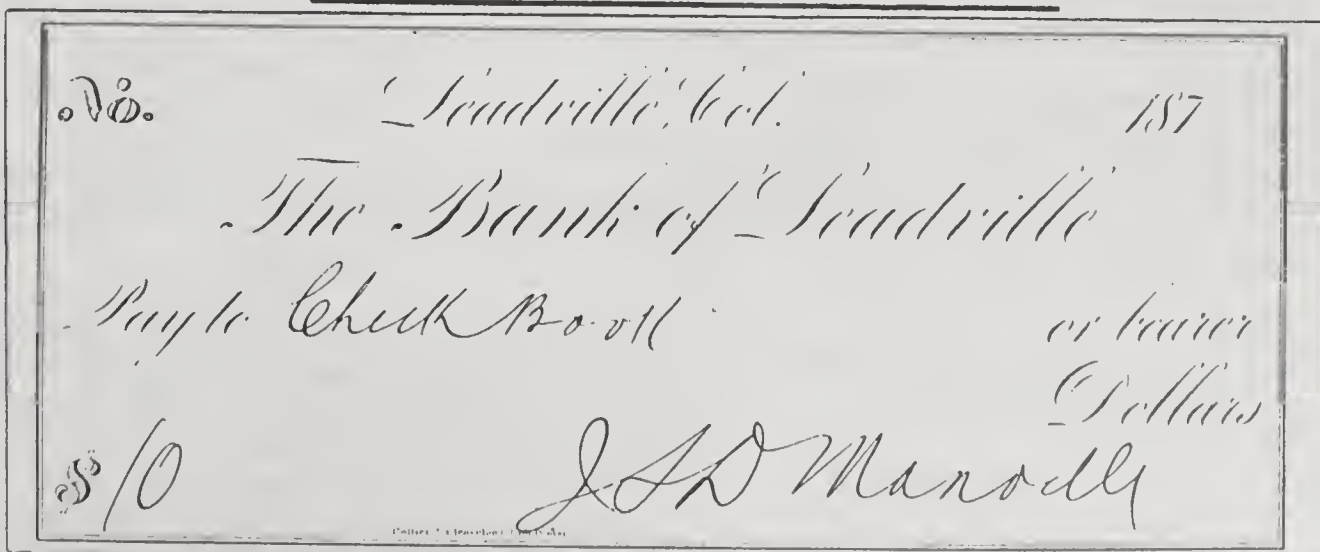
#23 - Herman Boraker asks: How common are such "envelope drafts"?

HAPPY FINDINGS AND CONVERSATION PIECESNew, novel, unique or interesting items.

Bob Patetta sent in an interesting find: The paper upon which this check was printed was folded at the time of printing, and later opened up to expose the blank area. Stamp collectors refer to oddities of this sort as "pre-printing paper folds".



Bob Spence came upon this handsome "check" used in the period around the turn of the century when check designs were used for Christmas greetings and New Year wishes messages and cards.



Herman Boraker sends in "One for the bank"! No date, number or amount.



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4, 22 & 26
(By Bob Spence)
- 1228 Chester Jaffee
(Collector)
P. O. Box 5369
Berkeley, CA 94705
Areas: 2-CA, 26 & 30.
(By Charles Kemp)
- 1229 Gary Magnotte
(Collector)
2501 N.E. 8th Court
Pompano Beach, FL 33062
Areas: 1, 20, 21, 22, 26 30,
31 & 32.
(By Bob Spence)
- 1230 William B. Smith
(Collector/Dealer)
37 Connie Lane
Aston, PA 19014
Areas: 1, 4, 8, 20, 22, 23,
26, 31 & 32.
(By R. A. Knott & Harry
Williams).
- 1231 Neal A. Williams
(Collector)
16001 West 153rd St.
Olathe, KS 66062
Areas: 1 thru 6, 10, 14,
17 & 33.
(By M. S. Kazanjian).

NEW MEMBERS

- 1232 Brian Seltzer
(Collector)
507 Mandolin Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Areas: 1, 12-checks of
sports & movie
stars.
(Thru Universal Auto-
graph Colls. Club).
- 1233 Joe Sperling
(Collector/Dealer)
43 Mays Landing Road
Somers Point, NJ 08244
Areas: 1, 12-checks of
members Baseball Hall
of Fame, 21.
(Thru Universal Auto-
graph Colls. Club)
- 1234 Albert J. Kulick, Jr.
(Collector/Dealer)
1005N Misty Lynn Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030
Areas: 1 & 21.
(By an ASCC member)
- 1235 Gregg Voss
17224 Manchester Road
Grover, MO 63040
Areas: 2-MO, 20-trains.
(By Judith Murphy)
- 1236 Robert W. Bolduc
(Collector)
10858 Greenview Way
Columbia, MD 21044
Areas: 2, 23-DC, 30-DC.
(Memphis P. M. Show)

NEW MEMBERS

- 1237 Frank A. Quartarone
(Collector)
5 Leonard St.
Foxboro, MA 02035
Areas: 1, 20, 22 & 30.
(By Bob Spence)
- 1238 Bob Bartosz
(Collector/Dealer)
401 W. Poplar
Wenonah, NJ 08090
Areas: 1, 20, 21, 22 & 26.
(By Paul Brittain)
- 1239 Tad Zachar
(Collector)
P. O. Box 1056
San Luis, AZ 85349
Areas: 8
(Thru Gale Res. Catalog
of Organizations).

REJOINED MEMBERS

- 421 Louis C. Ostrer
181 Kings Point Road
Kings Point, NY 11024

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 676 Kris S. Jacobs
1224 Corte de Cera
Chula Vista, CA 92010
- 1175 Werner J. Feiter
9027 Classic Court
Orlando, FL 32819

DECEASED

- 119 William J. Henderson
Past Vice President

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12 - Other:
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Mining
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